

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 219967

FOLLOWING REPEAT LISBON 5309 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN
LONDON MADRID MOSCOW PARIS ROME STOCKHOLM NATO DIA USCINCEUR
10 SEPT

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5309

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: 2,5, PO, PINS

SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: LISBON A-207 OF SEPTEMBER 4, 1975

SUMMARY: IN STRONGLY WORDED COMMUNIQUE, PCP HAS QUESTIONED
PPD PARTICIPATION IN VI PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. COSTA GOMES AND
AZEVEDO MET WITH PPM AND UDP SEPTEMBER 9 AND RAISED SPECTRE OF
IMMINENT MOVE BY SPINOLA WITH UDP. MEDIA REACTION TO CR BAN ON
PRESS COVERAGE OF MILITARY ACTIVITIES IS UNIFORMLY NEGATIVE.
FUR PLANS RALLY SEPTEMBER 11. END SUMMARY.

1. PCP QUESTIONS PPD PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT: SEPTEMBER 10
"O SEculo" CARRIED PCP COMMUNIQUE ATTACKING PPD IN GENERAL, AND
FORMER PPD GENERAL SECRETARY SA CARNEIRO IN PARTICULAR, IN
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STRONG TERMS. COMMUNIQUE LABELS PPD LEADERS' STATEMENTS IN

SEPTEMBER 5 OPORTO RALLY A PLAN FOR COUNTER-REVOLUTION AND CIVIL WAR. SA CARNEIRO'S COMMENTS IN AUGUST 26 JORNAL NOVO INTERVIEW (REFAIR) ARE ALLEGED TO HAVE PLACED HIM, AND LEADERSHIP OF PPD, "OUTSIDE OF PORTUGUESE REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS." PCP RHETORICALLY ASKS HOW PPD CAN TAKE PART IN REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT AND HOW PS CAN CONTINUE TO SUPPORT PPD PRESENCE IN GOVERNMENT. PPD INTERIM GENERAL SECRETARY EMIDIO GUERREIRO, MEANWHILE, AFFIRMED THAT CR DECISION TO INVESTIGATE "SERIOUS" STATEMENTS OF PPD LEADERS DID NOT APPLY TO HIM, BUT ONLY TO SA CARNEIRO AND OTHER SPEAKERS AT OPORTO RALLY.

8 PPM, UDP RECEIVED: COSTA GOMES AND AZEVEDO MET WITH THE FAR-LEFT MINISCULE UDP AND THE PPM (MONARCHISTS) ON SEPT 9. UDP SAID IT WAS INFORMED OF THE NEED FOR REINFORCEMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY AND GREATER ARMY COHESION AND DISCIPLINE DUE TO THE FASCIST OFFENSIVE, EVENTUALLY HEADED BY SPINOLA, WHICH MIGHT OCCUR IN THE NEXT TWO TO THREE WEEKS. UDP DECLARED ITS

DISINTEREST IN SUCH REINFORCEMENT OF AUTHORITY WHILE NO INDICATION IS BEING GIVEN OF A DESIRE TO STILL THE VOICES OF REACTION ALREADY RAISED. PLM SAID THAT ITS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT AND PM WAS TO DEFINE PPM'S POSITION. PPM PRESENTED DOCUMENT CALLING FOR GRADUAL TRANSFORMATION OF REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL INTO COUNCIL OF STATE, AND CANCELLATION OF AFM-PARTY PACT, WHICH PPM NEVER SIGNED. PPM CLAIMED IT HAD RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED PRESIDENT'S REQUEST TO SERVE EVENTUALLY AS MEDIATOR WITH VARIOUS POLITICAL GROUPS.

3. MEDIA REACTS NEGATIVELY TO RESTRICTIONS: THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL'S SEPT. 8 DECISION TO RESTRICT PUBLICATION OF NEWS ABOUT THE MILITARY TO OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE RECEIVED UNANIMOUS CRITICISM SEPT. 9 AND 10. NEWSPAPERS OF ALL POLITICAL STRIPES OPPOSED THE MOVE, CALLING IT THE FIRST STEP IN RENEWING THE KIND OF CENSORSHIP SO HATED DURING THE SALAZAR REGIME. SOME OF THE COMMUNIST-INFLUENCED PRESS WAS ESPECIALLY STRONG IN SAYING THE COUNCIL'S MOVE SIGNIFIED THE EFFECTIVE END OF THE REVOLUTION, AS IT WAS EVIDENT THAT "REACTIONARY" FORCES HAD SEIZED THE INITIATIVE. SO FAR, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE MEDIA WILL OPENLY DEFY THE COUNCIL ON ITS RULING. ONE PAPER, INDEPENDENT CONFIDENTIAL

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"JORNAL NOVO" MADE KEY POINT THAT THE LOGICAL (BUT IMPOSSIBLE, IN THIS INSTANCE) MOVE TO CURB PUBLICATION OF TENDENTIOUS NEWS ABOUT VARYING POLITICAL EXPRESSIONS AND OPINIONS WITHIN THE MILITARY WOULD BE TO ACT WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES AND NOT BY MUZZLING THE PRESS. ANOTHER, "A CAPITAL", REPORTED THAT, BECAUSE OF CR DECISION, IT WOULD BE UNABLE TO INFORM READERS OF SEPTEMBER 9 MEETING OF MILITARY POLICE AND DECISIONS TAKEN AT THAT MEETING.

4. REVOLUTIONARY UNITY FRONT PLANS RALLY: THEHREVOLUTIONARY UNITY FRONT (FRENTE DE UNIDADE REVOLQRIONARIA--FUR, FORMERLY KNOWN AS POPULAR UNITY FRONT) HAS SCHEDULED A RALLY SEPT 11 IN LISBON BULLRING. FUR IS NOW COMPOSED OF MDP/CDE, PRP-BR, LCI, MES, LUAR, AND FSP. THE PCP WAS KICKED OUT OF THIS ORGANIZATION AFTER IT HAD CALLED FOR AN ALLIANCE WITH PS.

5. AGRARIAN LANDOWNERS PROTEST: ABOUT 200 FARM OWNERS GATHERED IN FRONT OF SOUTHERN MILITARY REGION HEADQUARTERS IN EVORA SEPT 9 TO DEMANE "OBSERVANCE OF THE AGRARIAN REFORM LAW AND AN END TO ILLEGAL OCCUPATIONS." THESE DEMANDS WERE ALSO MADE DIRECTLY TO GEN. PEZARAT CORREIA, REGION COMMANDER, BY A FARM-OWNER DELEGATION. FIGHTS BROKE OUT WHEN LEFTIST COUNTERDEMONSTRATORS CLASHED WITH THE PROTESTING FORMERS.

6. CDS "THREAT" TO PS: IN SALZBURG, WHERE HE IS ATTENDING CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND CONSERVATIVES, CDS VICE-PRESIDENT AMARO DA COSTA STATED THAT PS CONSIDERS CDS IT MOST DANGEROUS ELECTORAL OPPONENT AND FOR THIS REASON HAS BEEN BEHIND "DISCRIMINATION" TO WHICH CDS HAS BEEN SUBJECTED IN PORTUGAL. HE ALSO DNOUNCED "SOCIALIST AND COMMUNIST" ATTEMPTSITO PROHIBIT POLITICAL PARTIES IN PORTUGAL FROM USING NAMES WITH RELIGIOUS CONNOTATIONS.

7. COMMENT: PCP IS GRASPING AT STRAWS CONVENIENTLY PROVIDED BY PPD AND SA CARNEIRO IN AN ATTEMPT TO RECOVER ITS BALANCE AFTER REVERSES OF PAST WEEKS. IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT COMMUNIST STAND REFLECTS ANY REAL DETERMINATION TO BOYCOTT VI PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT WHICH INCLUDES PPD, OR THAT IT WILL HAVE ANY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON NEGOTIATIONS TO FORM GOCERNMENT. GUERREIRO'S "SAUVE QUI PEUT" ATTITUDE POINTS UP PROFOUND DIVISIONS WITHIN PPD TOP LEADERSHIP.

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8. COSTA GOMES HAS RAISED THE SPECTRE OF COMMUNIST CIOLENCE WITH THE MODERATE PARTIES, AND OF FASCIST CIOLENCE WITH THE LEFT IN AN EFFORT TO BOLSTER HIS OWN SAGGING AUTHORITY AND TO ARGUE THE NEED FOR WIDESPREAD ACCEPTANCE OFHA NEW GOVERNMENT. MOST NOTABLE, HOWEVER, IS THE EFFECT SPINOLA'S PRESENCE IN PARIS HAS HAD ON THE POLIPICAL MOMRBHERE. LISBON PRESS IS FULL OF SPECULAT-ION ABOUT SPINOLA'S ACTIVITIES, AND MILITARY AND PARTY LEADERS ON ALL SIDES APPEAR DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT ALVOVE BY SPINOLA OR GROUPS LOYAL TO HIM IS IMMINENT.

9. PRESS REACTION TO CR DECISION IS AS EXPECTED; PERIOD OF PRO-BING A LA "CAPITAL" IS NOW LIKELY TO ENSUE IN PRESS ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE HOW FAR CR CAN BE PUSHED. FUR RALLY WILL BE FIRST TEFT OF ITS VITALITY AND CROWD-DRAWING ABILITY SINCE PCP EXPULSION.

10. AMARO DA COSTA'S RELATIONS WITH PS ARE EXCELLENT. SALZBURG
REMARKS MAY THEREFORE BE INDIRECT ATTEMPT TO AID SOCIALPSTS.
CARLUCCI UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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